

Memorandum

To : ROBERT G. HARVEY, Chief
Transportation Planning
Riverside County
Coordination Branch

Date: June 22, 1993

File: Yucca Mountain

From : DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
District 9 Katy Walton, Chief Transportation Planning Branch A

Subject: State Route 127

Thank you for the minutes from the meeting on June 3, 1993 between District 8 and the Army Corps of Engineers. I am enclosing, as I promised you, copy of my notes from the 1993 Transportation Coordination Group Meeting sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. The meeting was held in Washington D.C. on June 9 and 10. Also, attached are brief notes from the Yucca Mountain Project, Project Manager's Meeting that I attended in Las Vegas on June 11, 1993, and the observations and concerns I have regarding both meetings in general.

We are offering just a couple of clarifications regarding your June 2, 1993 notes on the Ft. Irwin proposed project:

- Lew Wood is not spelled Woods.
- The Yucca Mountain project may not necessitate widening Route 127 to four lanes. It will probably require at least shoulder widening, curve corrections, drainage improvements and other infrastructure improvements. Our concern is that the potential impacts are not and will not be identified or addressed. Conceivably, up to 40% of the Nation's shipments to Yucca Mountain could come up Route 127.

Inyo County, as one of the potentially 10 affected counties receives funding from DOE to look at potential impacts. They do not have the resources or the funds to do sophisticated studies. Recently the Yucca Mountain Repository Assessment Office of Inyo County and Caltrans, District 9, entered into a MOU to do cooperative studies on Route 127. Basically, we will be doing a couple Origination and Destination surveys with counts and classifications in the next year. This is primarily to collect baseline data. The County is hoping to have the University of Reno, Transportation Research Center, do a Pavement Management Study on Route 127 in Inyo County. This will depend on UNR receiving grant funding from DOE.

I understand that Mr. Louis Trout of Ft. Irwin called DOE and was told that it is up to the State to designate routing and determine potential impacts. The CHP is the lead agency in designating alternate routing (the Interstate is primary routing). They told me they are still in the infancy of the process. The CHP are following "The Guidelines for Selecting Preferred Highway Routes for Highway Route Controlled Quantity Shipments of Radioactive Materials" published by DOE, Research and Special Programs Administration. These guidelines do not use as evaluation criteria the geometric, alignment, structural section, width, etc. of the route. I have some concerns that the Route will be designated without an earnest effort to look at the adequacy of the route.

Please attempt to keep me apprised of the proposed Ft. Irwin expansion and I will likewise with Yucca Mountain.

Attachments